

SAFETY & HEALTH NOTE

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DOE's Worker Safety and Health Standards Response Line Serves DOE Community

Do you have a question regarding applicability and interpretation of worker safety and health standards, requirements, and/or directives? If so, and you are a DOE, DOE contractor, or DOE subcontractor employee, contact the DOE Worker Safety and Health Standards Response Line at 1-800-292-8061, electronically at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/rl/question/new.cfm> or fax at 301-903-9976.

The Response Line, established in 1992, is staffed by safety and health professionals who identify and/or clarify a standard or regulation applicable to a specific work situation, provide information on recent changes in standards and directives, and/or identify any unique DOE requirements regarding particular health and/or safety issues.

Hundreds of calls are received annually from the field on subjects ranging from radiation and respiratory protection to recordkeeping and reporting. Precedented inquiries (response is in existing policy documentation) are generally answered in 3-5 working days. Unprecedented inquiries (response is not in existing policy documentation) take somewhat longer because of policy development and review.

General information, including the types of questions that may be submitted, is available on the DOE Worker Safety and Health Standards Response Line Web Site at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/rl/>. Users may also subscribe online to the Response Line mailing list for weekly updates on the latest DOE Standards Questions and Answers.

In addition, the web site provides a browser and searchable database of existing precededented and unprecedented interpretations. To browse existing interpretations, click on "precedented" or "unprecedented" from the main page, choose the year you would like to browse (1995-1999) if precededented, and click on the number of the interpretation you are interested in based on the subject description. Existing interpretations may also be located by choosing the search function and entering any or all of the following: interpretation number, referenced standard, date issued, or general topical area, such as "asbestos" or "medical monitoring." Entering just the topical area will provide the user with a comprehensive listing of all precededented or unprecedented interpretations ever issued regarding that topic.

The Response Line is staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. eastern standard time, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Voice mail and electronic submission are operative 24 hours a day. For additional information, contact Eleanor Crampton at 301-903-3972.



This Safety & Health Note is one in a series of publications issued by EH to share worker health and safety information throughout the DOE complex. To be added to the Distribution List or to obtain copies of the publication, call 1-800-473-4375 or (301) 903-0449.